

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 21st, 2020**

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Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Winona, Fifty United

My father used to say that it's never too late to do anything you wanted to do. And he said, 'You never know what you can accomplish until you try.'

FATHER'S DAY CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 68:4-5, 19)

Come, sing praises to God! Rejoice in his presence!
For he is our God: a Father to the fatherless, and the defender of all who need protection; the One in whom the lonely find a home, and the prisoner finds release.

Bless the Lord, the God of our salvation, who sustains and strengthens us, day after day!

Let's worship God together!

OPENING HYMN: This Is My Father's World

This is my father's world
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres

This is my father's world
The birds their carols raise
The morning light, the lily white
Declare their maker's praise

This is my father's world
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas
His hand the wonders wrought

This is my father's world
Oh, let me never forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong
God is the ruler yet

This is my father's world
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let the heavens ring
God reigns, let the earth be glad

This is my father's world
He shines in all that's fair
In the rustling grass, I hear him pass
He speaks to me everywhere

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, you who are our father and our mother, we thank you that you have shown us how important it is to follow your example as we grow in faith. Teach us to be obedient to your will, respecting you as children ought. Thank you for your mercy despite our disobedience. Strengthen us to stand up against the challenges of this world, honoring your name and trusting your grace. In the Name of your Son, we pray.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S SONG

LITANY FOR FATHERS' DAY

One: Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.
All: For some of us, our father's love is like God's love—
too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.
One: Some of our dads are here; some were never here.

All: For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces
our fathers left behind.

One: All of us are shaped
by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.

All: On this day when we remember
what it means to have a father or be a father,
we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities.
We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture
the fathers among us
so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they do.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be
frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9*

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not
depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*

Proverbs 4:1-4 “Listen, my sons, to a father’s instruction; pay attention
and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake
my teaching. For I too was a son to my father, still tender, and
cherished by my mother. Then he taught me, and he said to me, “Take
hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands, and you will
live.”

Galatians 4:4

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a
woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we
might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent
the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba,
Father.” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you
are his child, God has made you also an heir.

MESSAGE: OUR FATHER WHO HOLDS OUR HAND

One of my favourite images of father or a grandfather is holding a
child’s hand... that first time crossing a street and having the little hand
of your child holding yours. It’s a great symbol of Fatherhood.

But probably the most meaningful is the hand of comfort... especially
with little child... when they are facing what is the most terrifying
moment of their lives, and all you can do is at least make it better, by
holding your hand

Have you ever looked at you hands ...? I mean really looked at them ...
all you men, dad’s, uncles, grandpa’s, teachers, coaches, guardians, care
giver’s

Stop and think for a moment about your hands you, how have they
served you throughout the years. Those hands may now be wrinkled and
shrivelled and weak or they still might be strong hands that continue to
do work. They have used tools, they have grabbed and taken away and
they have embraced life.

Those hands have caught a child or a toddler when they were about to
crash to the floor, those hands have worked hard to put food in the
mouths of your family. Those hands have folded in prayers in times
when you struggled and wondered how you were going to get through.
Those hands have taken the hand of a child crossing the street, being
able to ensure they don’t go when it’s dangerous.

Those hands have reached out, when a father says, hold my hand so you
can stay with me. Or been the hand to help a child up to climb
something that’s too tall. Or a hand to keep them steady while they
balance.

Those hands have taught a child how to tie a shoe or pull on a boot or
dried the tears of a child. Those hands have given a firm handshake to
someone to say it's okay or it's nice to see you or we can do this.
They have been dirty, they've been scraped and raw, they have been
swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when you tried to
hold that first newborn child.

Some of you have had a wedding band on your hands to show the world
that you were married and love someone special. They've been sticky
and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw and to this day when not much

of anything else works on you, those hands still hold and support you and the people you love.

... and God is the same...

Isaiah 41:10

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. . . . For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.”

God uses hands. Many times we read of Jesus healing through laying his hands on sick people, or even just touching them with his hands . At other times, he put his hands on people to bless them. He told his disciples that their hands would be used to heal the sick. Indeed, people were healed through the laying on of their hands . Others were filled with the Holy Spirit, or received gifts through the laying on of hands.

Robert Browning wrote: ‘I have lived, seen God’s hand through a lifetime, and all was for best.’ God gives a hand to all us when we are down, when we need to be lifted up and even when we need to be carried. God’s hands work through others

in many different ways, sometimes not realizing it at the time. Remember that God’s hands are busy hands and all his works are an example of Love.

But, more importantly, it will be these hands that God will reach out and take you when he leads you home.

SONG: Daddy's Hands by Holly Dunn

I remember daddy's hands folded silently in prayer
And reachin' out to hold me, when I had a nightmare
You could read quite a story in the callous' and lines
Years of work and worry had left their mark behind

I remember daddy's hands how they held my mama tight
And patted my back for something done right

There are things that I'd forgotten that I loved about the man
But I'll always remember the love in daddy's hands

Daddy's hands were soft and kind when I was cryin'
Daddy's hands were hard as steel when I'd done wrong
Daddy's hands weren't always gentle but I've come to understand
There was always love in daddy's hands

I remember daddy's hands workin' 'til they bled
Sacrificed unselfishly just to keep us all fed
If I could do things over, I'd live my life again
And never take for granted the love in daddy's hands

Daddy's hands were soft and kind when I was cryin'
Daddy's hands were hard as steel when I'd done wrong
Daddy's hands weren't always gentle but I've come to understand
There was always love in daddy's hands

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Mother Father God, creator and sustainer, we thank you for nurturing us. We praise you that your care and protection surround us like a father. On this Father’s day, we remember all the people who have nurtured us, especially the important men in our lives, those who have seen, not just with their eyes, but with their heart. Hear our prayer for fathers around the world.

We remember fathers, whose families are torn apart by jealousy, fighting and misunderstandings. We remember fathers who are older, but who still bear the responsibility of raising children and grandchildren. And we remember fathers who mean well, but make mistakes.

We remember men who, because of various circumstances, are unable to become fathers. We remember fathers who have adopted children and fathers who given up their rights as fathers.

We remember fathers who rejoice in the achievements of their children. Who joyfully watch a new generation take hold. We remember fathers who are single parents, who through personal sacrifice and perseverance provide a loving home for their children.

We remember fathers who helplessly watch their children suffer and die from malnutrition because of famine, drought, flood or war. We pray for the fathers where recent disasters have occurred. We remember fathers

whose children are sick or disabled and who will try anything to cure or help them.

We pray for fathers and their children around the world caught in the terrors of violence and living in fear.

Nurturing God, thank you for those who have nurtured us. Open our eyes to the plight of so many fathers and mothers around the world for whom life is difficult. Help us share your love and mercy with them.

In the silence of this moment, hear the prayers of our hearts. [pause] God, hear our prayers and in your love may you lead and guide us from this day forward. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R

SENDING FORTH FOR FATHER'S DAY

As you go from here, remember this:

Because of the work of the Holy Spirit within us,
we are sons and daughters of God.

We have been adopted into his family;
God is truly our Father.

And if we are God's children,
we are His heirs, and fellow heirs with Christ.
So go in peace and confidence,
knowing that the love of God, our Father,
the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
goes with us. Amen and Amen

To my congregations of Hagersville and Springvale United Churches;

I met with the Chairs of each Committee of Church Council and the Unified Board on Wednesday June 17th to discuss the protocol for reopening the churches. I would like to thank the men and the women that joined me in that meeting for their wisdom their honesty and their thoughts around everything that is happening with Covid-19.

After much discussion the decision was made at both meetings that we will remain closed until Sunday September 6th. We will join together as Boards again to discuss in August what the protocol will be to reopen and where we are at in Ontario at that present time.

Emily and myself will continue putting the worship services online and the bulletins. To those of you who are getting them mailed to you or delivered to you that will also continue. I will stay in contact with you by phone or maybe even a porch visit.

Please remember that you can call me if you need to talk. These are trying times and many people are suffering from anxiety, loneliness and other things that go along with being confined at home.

May you continue to walk in faith and in the light of God's presence each and every day.

Blessings Peggy

In honour of all the dads, here are some of the best “dad jokes” to make you laugh and maybe shake your head a little bit:

- What did the drummer call his twin daughters? Anna one, Anna two!
- I wanted to go on a diet, but I feel like I have way too much on my plate right now.
- Want to hear a joke about construction? I'm still working on it.
- What's Forrest Gump's password? 1forrest1
- To whoever stole my copy of Microsoft Office, I will find you. You have my Word!
- What does a zombie vegetarian eat? “GRRRAAAIINS!”
- This graveyard looks overcrowded. People must be dying to get in there.
- I tell dad jokes, but I don't have any kids. I'm a faux pa.
- Two goldfish are in a tank. One says to the other, "do you know how to drive this thing?"
- You're Canadian when you go into the bathroom, and you're Canadian when you come out, but do you know what you are while you're in there? European.
- Why did the picture go to jail? Because it was framed.
- What do you call a man with a rubber toe? Roberto.
- I thought about going on an all-almond diet. But that's just nuts.
- Did you know the first French fries weren't actually cooked in France? They were cooked in Greece.